

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 28, 2003.

Status of the Application

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 11 and 12 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-12 have been rejected.

Written Description Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 11 and 12 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, this rejection is believed to be moot, and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

Anticipation/Obviousness Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Miyanaga et al.* (US 5,223,074; hereinafter "*Miyanaga*"), and claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Miyanaga*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner on page 4 of the July 16, 2003 Office Action, and is therefore believed to be patentable over the applied reference. Support for these amendments are provided at least by FIG. 1 of the Application.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied reference. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that rejected dependent claims 2-10 are allowable, *at least* by virtue of their dependency.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl. No.: 09/873,428

Attorney Docket # Q62667

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10 are allowable.
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1-10.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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